

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee
Tuesday, June 7, 2011
Archie R. Cole Middle School
100 Cedar Avenue
East Greenwich, RI 02818

ANY ITEMS ON THE AGENDA MAY BE SUBJECT TO A VOTE

The regular session of the East Greenwich School Committee was called to order in the Cafetorium of Archie R. Cole Middle School at 7:00 P.M. by Vice Chair, Mr. Robert Durant. Those in attendance were: Mrs. Susan Records; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters; Mr. David Green; and Mr. Jack Sommer. Superintendent Dr. Victor Mercurio; Director of Administration, Mrs. Maryanne Crawford; and Director of Student Services, Mrs. Paula Dillon were also present. Dr. Deidre Gifford and Mr. Paul Martin were absent.

7:00 P.M. Regular Meeting

I. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

II. Public Comments

Mr. Ralph Apici of 573 Cedar Avenue addressed the School Committee as a taxpayer and employee. He expressed irritation with the school department administration that he was not personally informed of his hours being cut. He learned about the reduction in his hours by reading *The Pendulum*. He stated that he is scheduled and paid to work 2 hours a day, but he usually works 4 or more. He is happy to accommodate children who have forgotten their lunch, musical instrument, or coat behind and return it to them. He feels that his job is more like community service and feels bad because it will be the kids who will be hurt. He stated that he does not understand how the school department will be saving money by having other employees, who make much more than he, work his days off. "An expected savings of \$5,000.00 seems unrealistic when I do not make \$5,000.00 a year." Mr. Apici thanked the School Committee for their time.

III. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Mrs. Winters which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Work Session Minutes for May 6, 2011 and the Regular and Executive Minutes for May 17, 2011 were unanimously approved (5-0)

IV. Recognitions

The following recognitions were made:

- a. East Greenwich School Department Retirees. Linda Alix with 38 years; Barbara Bentsen with 35 years; Denise Merrill with 31 years; Constance Zack with 32 years; Margaret Devine with 28 years; Maureen Maggiacomo with 18 years; Jerry Nettik with 11 years; Kathleen Palmeiro with 27 years; and Gail Tucker with 42 years were all recognized individually by Dr. Mercurio and presented with a certificate and an engraved clock.

V. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Mercurio stated that the graduation ceremony held on Sunday, June 5, 2011 at the Providence Performing Arts Center was well-run and the EGHS students were terrific. He is always amazed at the cohesiveness of the students of East Greenwich High School. Last week the Board of Regents held their meeting in the new Cole Middle School.

VI. Action Items

- a. **Approval of Field Trips** –Meadowbrook Grade 3- Southwick’s Zoo, Mendon, MA- June 8, 2011; EGHS Cheerleaders-Orlando, FL-February 23-February 27, 2012; Cole Green Team, Mystic Aquarium, Mystic, CT-June 13, 2011; Cole Red Team, Lake Compounce, Bristol, CT-June 15, 2011; Cole Blue Team, Lake Compounce, Bristol, CT-June 16, 2011. On a motion made by Mrs. Records, and seconded by Mr. Green the field trips were unanimously approved (5-0).
- b. **Approval of Parental Leave –Lara Aulenbach, EGHS.** On a motion made by Mrs. Winters and seconded by Mr. Green the parental leave was unanimously approved (5-0).
- c. **Home School Approval for 2011-2012 – Grade K and Grade 2.** On a motion made by Mrs. Records and seconded by Mr. Sommer the home school approval was unanimously approved (5-0).
- d. **Contract Renewals – Director of Student Services and Principal of Meadowbrook.** The contract renewal for Director of Student Services was tabled. On a motion made by Mrs. Records and seconded by Mr. Green the contract renewal for Principal of Meadowbrook was unanimously approved (5-0).
- e. **Contract for EGHS Principal-** tabled.
- f. **School Lunch Contract**

Mr. Tom Hoagland, Aramark General Manager of Operations for RI, explained that there will be a deficit of \$13,000.00-\$15,000.00 for this year. Mrs. Crawford stated that she is proposing a contract renewal with Aramark for one more year. She is recommending increasing the price of elementary lunches from \$2.00 to \$2.25 for the 2011-2012 school year. She noted there has not been an increase in elementary lunches in a while. Mr. Hoagland explained that with the .25 cents raise in elementary lunches we should see an increase of \$15,000.00. Mrs. Crawford stated that she is pleased with Aramark’s services. She added that if the district goes to bid, we would need to work very hard to break even. A new contract was not presented, just a request for a one year renewal. After a final review with legal counsel, Mrs. Crawford will present a contract at the next meeting. Mr. Durant asked whether we will see a drop in lunch sales with the increase. Mr. Hoagland stated that it all depends on the district and the quality of the food. He has placed a 1-2% decrease in the budget. However, he does not see any changes in East Greenwich. Mr. Durant asked whether the price of \$2.45 in SK was a recent increase. Mr. Hoagland said he did not have access from other companies. Mr. Hoagland explained because of the low percentage of Free/Reduced lunch sales in East Greenwich, we depend on paid lunches. On a motion made by Mr. Green and seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee unanimously approved (5-0) a one year contract renewal pending final review with legal counsel.
- g. **Award bid-Student Information System**

Dr. Mercurio recommended awarding the bid for a new student information system to Follett. The current system, SchoolMax, is being phased out. There have been numerous issues with SchoolMax from the beginning in our district and across the state. Our contract ends June 30, 2011. SchoolMax must receive a letter prior to June 30 if we are not going to renew. Dr. Mercurio sent SchoolMax a letter stating we will not renew and are going out to bid. Even though Follett was not the low bidder, this system will bring a fully integrated, web-based solution to the East Greenwich School System with many capabilities. Funding sources would come from ARRA, Title II and FY 2012 Budget. The

new set-up should start by February 2012. Mr. Green asked whether SchoolMax will allow us to use them beyond the contract period. Dr. Mercurio stated that he will contact them and ask about a month to month contract extension. Mrs. Records stated that it is very important that we back-up all SchoolMax data. Dr. Mercurio stated that we will do that on our end. On a motion made by Mrs. Records and seconded by Mrs. Winters the bid award to Follett was unanimously approved (5-0).

h. Roofing Bid Approval

Mr. John Winikur updated the Committee on the high school roof. He would like to award the bid to Eagle. The price is \$1,251,061.00 which is well under bid. Mr. Durant asked whether this price included the contingency fee. Mr. Winikur stated, "No." Mr. Durant asked about expected completion. Mr. Winikur stated the projected date is August with a contingency in the fall. Mr. Sommer asked whether it will be disruptive to the students. Mr. Winikur stated that there should be little or no disruption. On a motion made by Mrs. Winters and seconded by Mr. Sommer the bid award to Eagle was unanimously approved (5-0).

i. Fund Balance Policy-First Read

Dr. Mercurio stated that the Fund Policy will need to be adopted by June 30, 2011. The Policy Committee met and looked at the document. Mr. Sequino did not join the meeting. The percentage for the fund balance may be 1.5 – 2.5%. Mr. Green stated that he would like to recommend 2.5-3.5%. Dr. Mercurio said that there is a policy meeting on June 23, 2011 and Mr. Sequino will be contacted. This is a first read-no action taken.

VII. Discussion Items

a. Budget FY2012-None

b. Report on Disproportionality

Mrs. Dillon went through her handout page by page and interpreted the information and abbreviations for the School Committee. East Greenwich was compared with the Nation. She stated that in East Greenwich there are no students over identified for IEP's. Each student that is identified is really in need of an IEP. East Greenwich will continue to comply with RIDE's recommendations. Mrs. Dillon stated the district will continue to provide professional development and continue to work with RIDE.

c. Subcommittees- tabled

d. School Visitations by School Committee members-tabled

e. Building Committee Update

Mr. Winakur gave the Committee an update on Meadowbrook discussing the costs and scope. There are ongoing issues with the Fire Marshall. He is working with the Fire Chief to resolve the code interpretation of an upgrade within the building. We may be dealing with a whole different set of codes. Upon completion of this it will be presented to the School Committee and Town Council for approval. The work at Cole is continuing. During hot and humid days we will experience discomfort within the building. The ventilation system is not fully functional at this time. Without proper ventilation, it is not possible to have air move about the building. Mr. Green inquired about the temperature on the third floor. Mr. Winakur explained that air conditioning is not throughout the building, only in key spaces-office, IT, media. Unfortunately, during these very hot and humid days, there will not be any way to cool the building down properly. Dr. Mercurio suggested that for the next 30 days we could use fans to balance the temperature. He will pursue this with Sean Sullivan of SBS.

Mr. Winakur gave an update of the EGHS library expansion. The removal of the exterior wall and replacement with glass will open up the library and give more light. The removal of the stairwell will add additional space.

f. Fields' MOU

Dr. Mercurio stated that he and Mr. Sequino have discussed the MOU and moving forward. The responsibility of the fields cannot be turned over to the school department. The concession stand's roof is on and the stand has generous space and will be fully functional for the fall sports season. Members of the School Committee were concerned whether they would have a say over expenditures. Mr. Green stated that there should be compromises between the Town Council and the School Department. The concession stand is a facility on the field, and where does the responsibility lay for upkeep. Mr. Durant stated that an agreement should be put together on how money should be spent. Dr. Mercurio stated that he will draft something that defines it. We should only be concerned with the upkeep of the athletic fields and not the day-to-day routine of the town's schedule. Mrs. Winters inquired about the renting of the turf field. We should be thinking ahead to when we will need to replace the carpet in 10 years. The revenue from the field rental will help with the cost. Mr. Green said that Mr. Cobain should be consulted about the rental fee and come up with some numbers. We need to look at all the potential profits from the concession stand, field rental, news box, and score board. Mrs. Winters asked about the upkeep of the scoreboard on the Eldredge field now that we do not use it. She does not feel the school department should pay for the upkeep. Dr. Mercurio stated that we have enough space with the fields at the high school to consolidate Junior Varsity and Varsity teams. Mrs. Winters would like more discussion on the fields' rental.

VIII. School Committee Concerns

There were no concerns.

IX. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was seconded by Mr. Green, the Committee voted (5-0) to adjourn at 8:26 P.M.

Margaret M. Ucci
Secretary